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METROPOLIS; DECEMBER 31 ST, TWO A.M.
THE OLD WARNER THEATER ON BROOME STREET IS SILENT, AWAITING IT'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOWING OF "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE."
WARNER
MARZANNE
DARLING
75
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
REED
WHILE ABOVE, IN THE OFFICES OF SCIENCE CONCEPTS--
SCIENCE CONCEPTS
--LIFE IS ABOUT TO GET A BIT MORE COMPLICATED!
DONE! SECURITY SYSTEM VOOPED!
NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS GRAB THAT EXPERIMENTAL CIRCUIT DESIGN AND--
HEY! WHO'S THAT?
NOT A GUARD, NOT IN THAT OUTFIT! MUST BE COMPETITION! BURN 'IM!
WHA--?!
--MOVES THAT FAST!
NO ONE--
N-NO ONE--
--HUMA--

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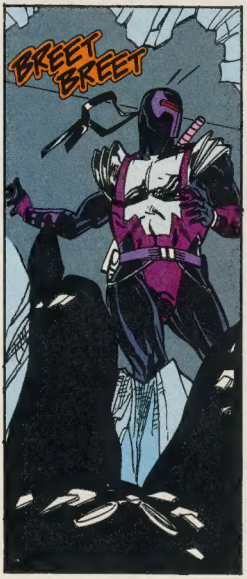
>HNGK<
LIKE FIRE FROM THE DARK
WHAT'S HE DOIN'?
GOT SOME KINDA WEAPON!
LOOK OUT! THEY'RE GONNA EXPLODE--!
HUH? J-JUST FLOATIN' THERE?
BUT WHY--?
CHOK
THRAP
>OOMF<
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER . JACKSON GUICE & DENIS RODIER ARTISTS . BILL OAKLEY LETTERER . GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST
CHRIS DUFFY, ASSISTANT EDITOR - MIKE CARLIN, EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

PRETTY CUTE, KWA! CHANG! SUCKERED THOSE GUYS SO YA COULD GET BEHIND 'EM!
BUT YOU'RE AHEAD O' ME, PAL! DEAD AHEAD--!

--EH? WHAT'RE YA DOIN' WITH THAT BELT BUCKLE--?

AGH--!
KAREESH


BREET BREET

SEVENTEEN SECONDS LATER...
BURGLAR CREW!
MUST'VE FALLEN OUT OVER THE LOOT, SKRAGGED EACH OTHER!

THINK THERE'RE ANY MORE?
WE'LL LOOK AROUND, BUT THE BUILDING SEALED AUTOMATICALLY WHEN THE ALARM TRIPPED. TRUST ME...
SECURITY
...WE GOT 'EM ALL!

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Kal.

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COMING IN JANUARY Written by Dave Gibbons Illustrated by Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez

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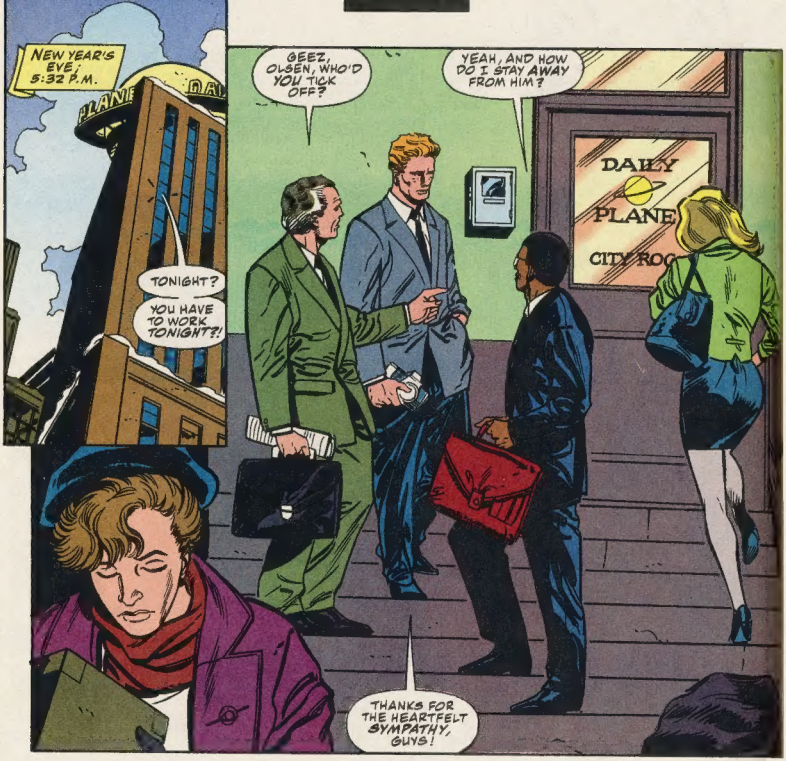
PRICE TOWER, SHORTLY THEREAFTER.
I DIDN'T GET IT.
OTHER THIEVES WERE SEEKING THE SAME PRIZE. STOPPING THEM ALERTED AUTHORITIES.
SO CLOSE...
DON'T TORTURE YOURSELF, SAVITAR. THE SHADOWDRAGON MAY BE INVINCIBLE, A MYTHICAL WARRIOR--
--BUT YOU'RE JUST A MAN!
C'MON, VAJRA--
--WE NEED THAT CIRCUIT DESIGN! BHUTRAN NEEDS IT!
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?
WAIT.
WESTERN CULTURE HAS IT THAT PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE.
PERHAPS, AS BHUTRANIANS, WE CAN LEARN FROM THAT.
TOMORROW WILL PROVIDE.


NEW YEAR'S EVE; 5:32 P.M.
TONIGHT?
YOU HAVE TO WORK TONIGHT?!
GEEZ, OLSEN, WHO'D YOU TICK OFF?
YEAH, AND HOW DO I STAY AWAY FROM HIM?
DAILY PLANE
THANKS FOR THE HEARTFELT SYMPATHY, GUYS!

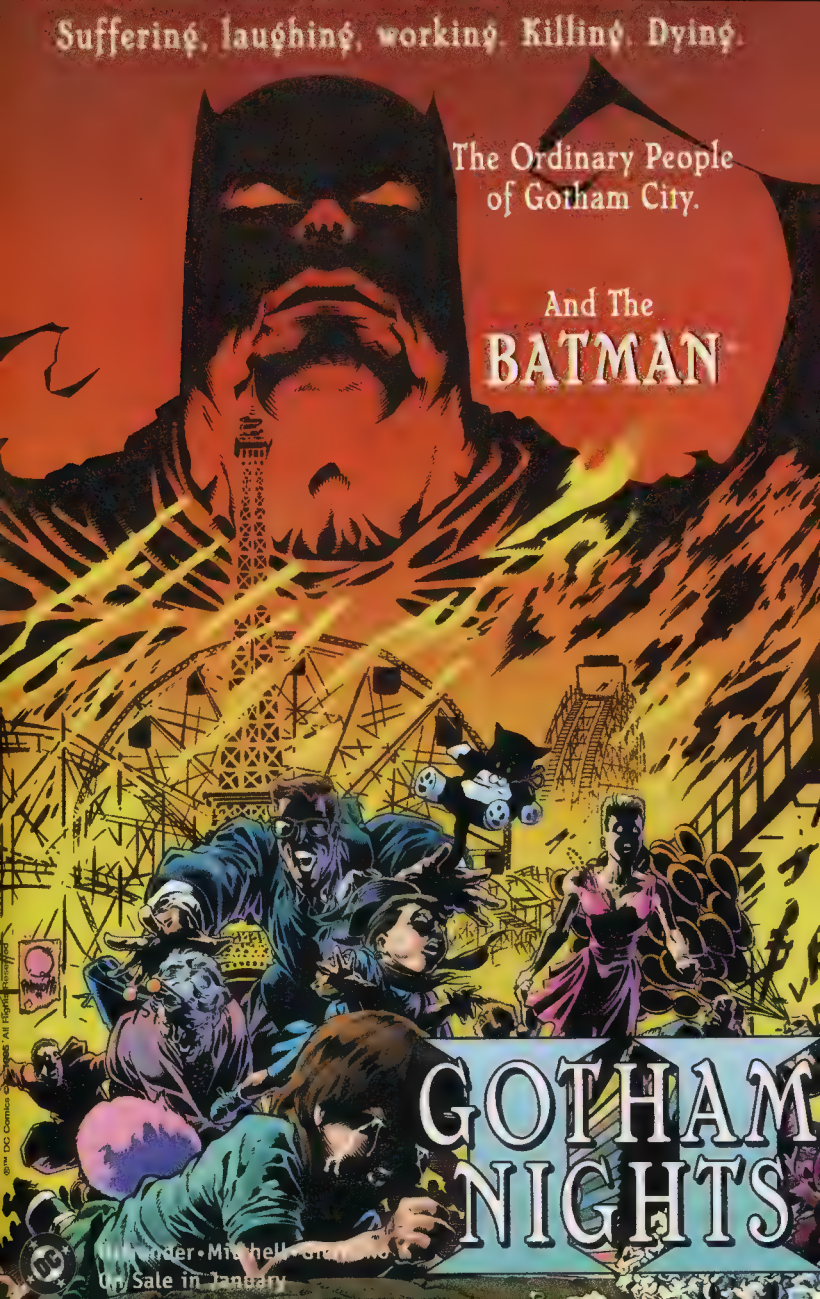
BUT I'M PHOTOGRAPHING CELEBRITIES AT THE ANNUAL "NEW YOU" GALA. MOST FOLKS'D GIVE THEIR RIGHT ARM FOR TICKETS--
--AND I'M GETTING PAID TO BE THERE!
YOU'VE GOT A POINT, JIM. BIGGEST CELEB AT THE PARTY I'M GOING TO IS SLY STALLONE'S ORTHODONTIST!

TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT MONDAY, OKAY?
SURE THING, RON.
HEY, CLARK!

HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY!
YOU TOO, JIMMY.
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

ALMOST DONE, LOIS?
mm-hmm. JUST HAVE TO FINISH PROOFING THIS STORY ON THE SCIENCE CONCEPTS BREAK-IN.
WEIRD STUFF. CROOKS INSIST THEY WERE K-O'D BY SOME SORT OF COSTUMED BOGEYMAN--
--BUT SECURITY CAMERAS DON'T SHOW ANYONE BUT THEM!
NO SIGN OF AN "ELECTRIC NINJA" WHATSOEVER!
A...NINJA?
DECEMBER
THAT'S HOW THEY DESCRIBED THE GUY.
BLACK JAMMIES, VISOR, SWORD, SHINY CHEST PLATE--
WHAT?
LOIS, I THINK WE'D BETTER TALK.

LATER...
I'M GLAD WE GOT TO TALK, MA, PA--
--BUT NEXT YEAR YOU'VE GOT TO COME TO METROPOLIS FOR THE FESTIVITIES!
PROMISE? GREAT!
LOIS SENDS HER LOVE-- HAPPY NEW YEAR!
YOU HAVE TO GO OUT?
CAN'T HELP IT, HON!
DESCRIPTION OF THE INTRUDER AT SCIENCE CONCEPTS SOUNDS TOO MUCH LIKE THAT GUY I RAN INTO AT S.T.A.R. LABS!*
AND IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF CHARACTER--
*IN SUPERMAN #97.
--THAT CHARACTER ISN'T ONE TO GIVE UP EASILY!
I'LL BE BACK BY MIDNIGHT...
...IF I CAN.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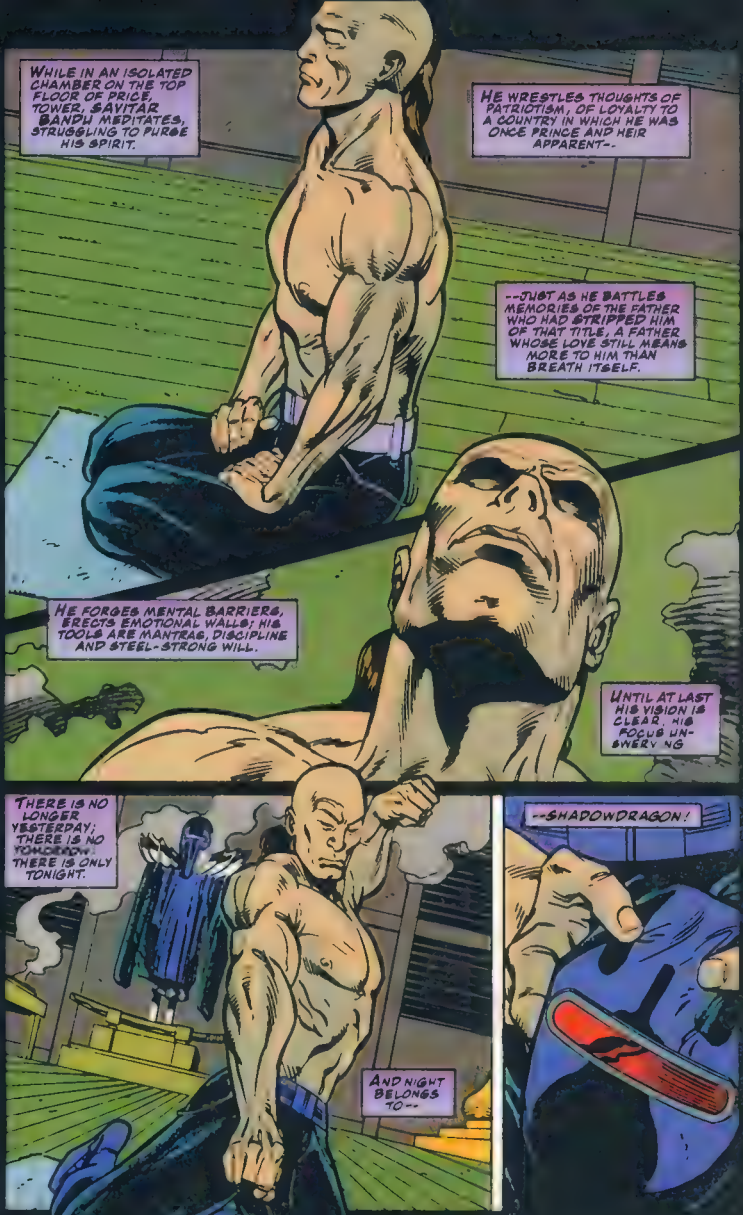
A KID WITH ATTITUDE
A SUICIDE MISSION
WATERY GRAVE
THIS TIME SUPERBOY IS IN OVER HIS HEAD!
SUPERBOY
#13
STARTING IN JANUARY

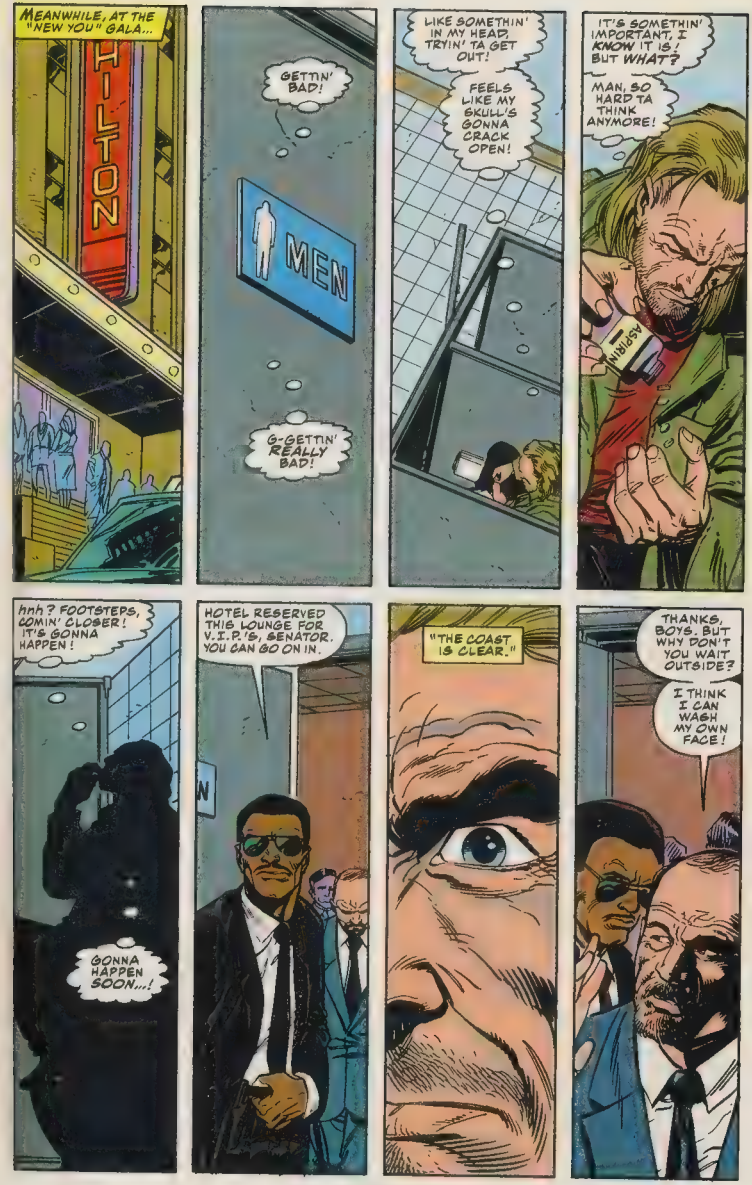
WHILE AT THE BALLROOM OF THE METROPOLIS HILTON HOTEL...
YESSS! GOT A SHOT OF ROSEANNE AND MADONNA EXCHANGING RECIPES!
AT LEAST, I THINK THEY WERE TALKING FOOD.
:gasp:
GNOLA
BABE?! WELL, WHY WOULDN'T SHE BE HERE-- SHE IS A ROCK STAR!
BUT THE LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE WAS SINKING HER TEETH INTO MY NECK!

NO, NOT BABE-- SOMETHING THAT WAS CONTROLLING HER!
GOTTA TALK TO HER, CONVINCE HER I CAN HELP--!

HUH? WHERE'D SHE GO?
BABE? SAID SHE HADDA FLY--
--AN' WHEN I TURNED AROUND, SHE WAS GONE!

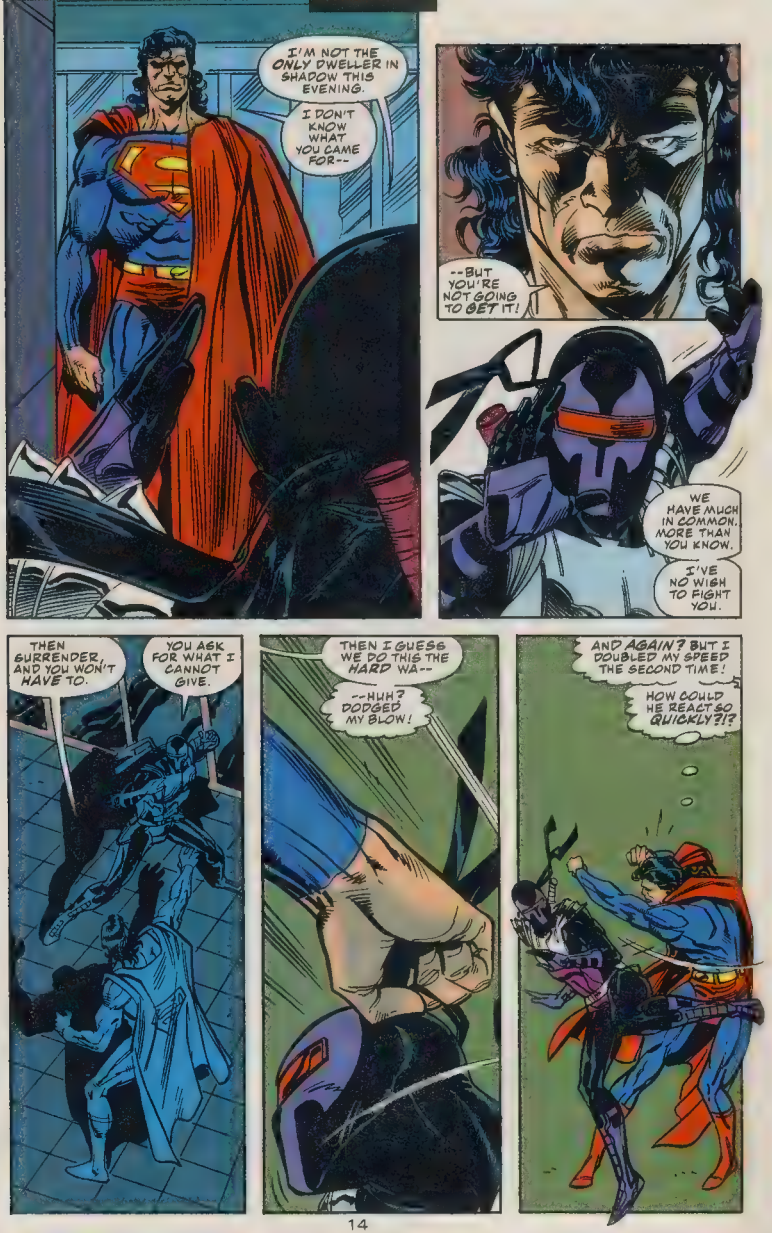
MUST'VE SPOTTED ME AND BOLTED!
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...!


WHILE IN AN ISOLATED CHAMBER ON THE TOP FLOOR OF PRICE TOWER, SAVITAR BANDH MEDITATES, STRUGGLING TO PURGE HIS SPIRIT.
HE WRESTLES THOUGHTS OF PATRIOTISM, OF LOYALTY TO A COUNTRY IN WHICH HE WAS ONCE PRINCE AND HEIR APPARENT--
--JUST AS HE BATTLES MEMORIES OF THE FATHER WHO HAD STRIPPED HIM OF THAT TITLE, A FATHER WHOSE LOVE STILL MEANS MORE TO HIM THAN BREATH ITSELF.
HE FORGES MENTAL BARRIERS, ERECTS EMOTIONAL WALLS; HIS TOOLS ARE MANTRAS, DISCIPLINE AND STEEL-STRONG WILL.
UNTIL AT LAST HIS VISION IS CLEAR, HIS FOCUS UNWAVERING
THERE IS NO LONGER YESTERDAY; THERE IS NO TOMORROW-- THERE IS ONLY TONIGHT.
AND NIGHT BELONGS TO--
--SHADOWDRAGON!


MEANWHILE, AT THE "NEW YOU" GALA...
HILTON
GETTIN' BAD!
MEN
G-GETTIN' REALLY BAD!
LIKE SOMETHIN' IN MY HEAD, TRYIN' TA GET OUT!
FEELS LIKE MY SKULL'S GONNA CRACK OPEN!
IT'S SOMETHIN' IMPORTANT, I KNOW IT IS! BUT WHAT?
MAN, SO HARD TA THINK ANYMORE!
ASPIRIN
hnh? FOOTSTEPS, COMIN' CLOSER! IT'S GONNA HAPPEN!
GONNA HAPPEN SOON...!
HOTEL RESERVED THIS LOUNGE FOR V.I.P.'S, SENATOR. YOU CAN GO ON IN.
"THE COAST IS CLEAR."
THANKS, BOYS. BUT WHY DON'T YOU WAIT OUTSIDE?
I THINK I CAN WASH MY OWN FACE!

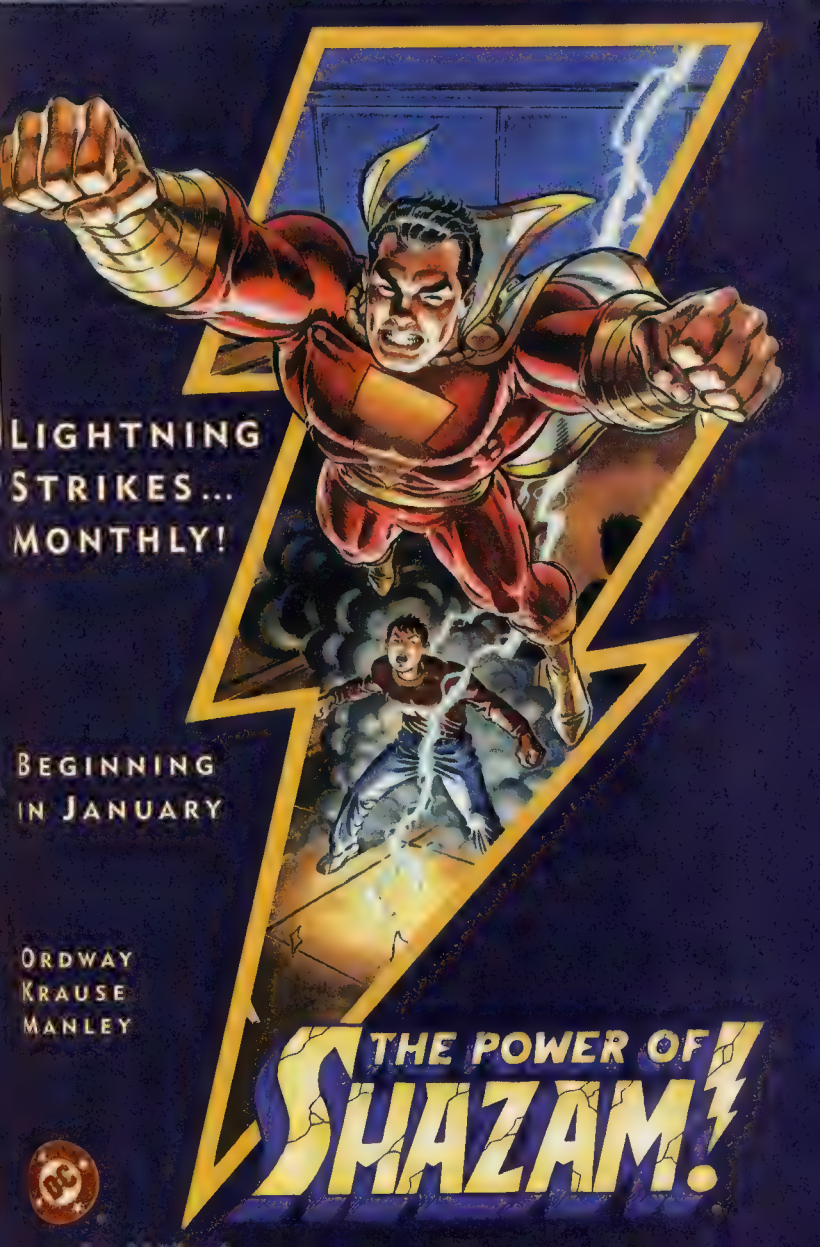
BETTER GO EASY ON THE CHAMPAGNE. TOO MANY PHOTOGRAPHERS AROUND!
I WOULDN'T WANT TO CAUSE AN--
--INCIDENT?
W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
KEEPIN' THIS PRIVATE.
YOU REFUSED TA TESTIFY AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION, SEN-ATOR-- JUST 'CAUSE THE PRESIDENT'S A CRONY O' YOURS!
BUT YOU PROMISED TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE, MAN--
--NOT YOUR OWN BUTT!
YOU'RE A DECEIVER. AN' I PUT DECEIVERS DOWN.
FOR TRUTH
WHAT THE--?!
MEN
OH, LORD!
KREKT
THIS IS ATKINS! GET PARA-MEDICS TO--
NO GOOD, CHARLIE. HE'S GONE.
AND SO'S THE ANIMAL WHO DID THIS!
WHAT A MESS...!

MIDNIGHT APPROACHES, AS EAGER MOVIEGOERS GATHER AT THE WARNER THEATER...
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
JAMES STEWART · DONNA REED
...UNAWARE THAT ABOVE THEIR HEADS~
WARNER
--IN THE RECENTLY RESECURED OFFICES OF SCIENCE CONCEPTS--
SCIENCE CONCEPTS
--A MORE SINISTER SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
AN UNFOLDING DRAMA THAT HAS ITS OWN--
--UNEXPECTED--
--AUDIENCE!
SO.


I'M NOT THE ONLY DWELLER IN SHADOW THIS EVENING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CAME FOR--
--BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET IT!
WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
I'VE NO WISH TO FIGHT YOU.
THEN SURRENDER, AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO.
YOU ASK FOR WHAT I CANNOT GIVE.
THEN I GUESS WE DO THIS THE HARD WA--
--HUH? DODGED MY BLOW!
AND AGAIN? BUT I DOUBLED MY SPEED THE SECOND TIME!
HOW COULD HE REACT SO QUICKLY?!?

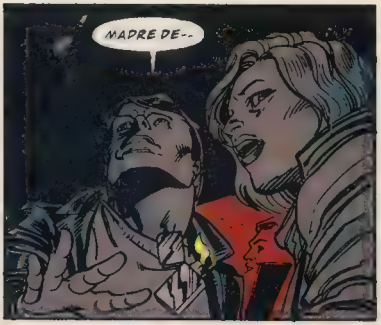
NO MATTER! I'LL JUST GRAB THIS TASSEL, THEN JERK HIS HEAD AROUND AND--
PHASH
THAT WASN'T A DECORATION, IT WAS A TRAP!
AND IN THE SECOND I WAS BLINDED, HE VANISHED!
LIKE A GHOST!
BUT GHOSTS ARE DEAD, AND SUPER-HEARING'S PICKING UP A HEARTBEAT!
THWAMP!
THUNDER-CLAP SHOULD TELL ME WHERE IT'S COMING FROM!
;whng;
H-HOW--?
AH. MY PULSE. OF COURSE
I RARELY UNDERESTIMATE AN OPPONENT.

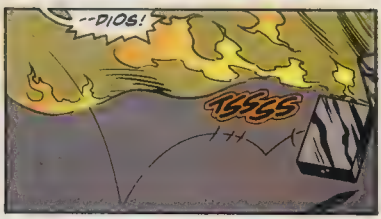
AND I NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE ONE TWICE!
THAT HANDLE FROM HIS BELT, TELESCOPED INTO SOME KIND OF SWORD!
BUT HE'S NOT ATTACKING! HE'S JAMMING IT INTO THE--
"--FLOOR!"
HEY!
I JUST GOT HIT BY A PAINT CHIP FROM THE CEILING!
Shhh!
READY, ALICE?
FIRECRACKERS RIGHT HERE, RAMONE!
THEN LET'S GIVE THESE NOSTALGIA NERDS A NEW YEAR--
FICH!
--THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!
SHKAM
SWORD BLADE STARTED GLOWING! SOMEHOW SHATTERED THE FLOOR!

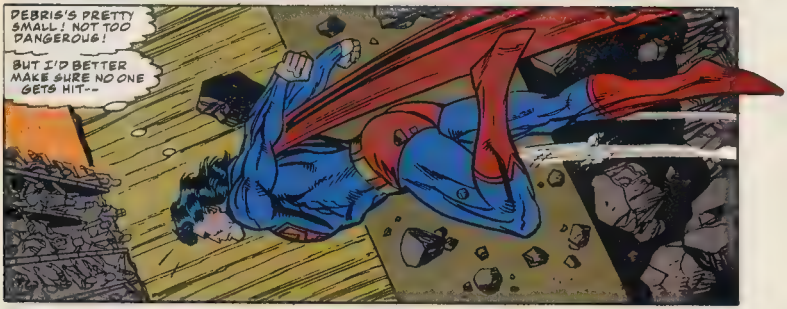

LIGHTNING
STRIKES...
MONTHLY!
BEGINNING
IN JANUARY
ORDWAY
KRAUSE
MANLEY
THE POWER OF
SHAZAM!

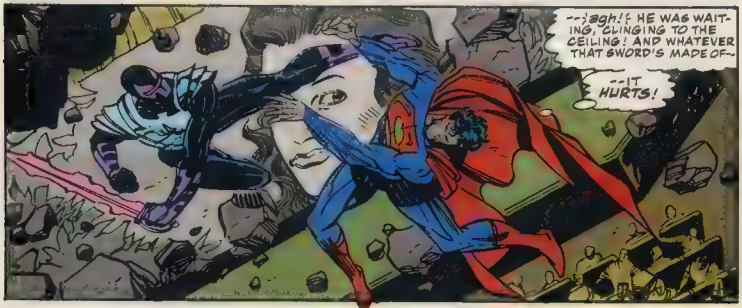
BATMAN
MITEFALL
KNIGHTFALL. KNIGHTQUEST. KNIGHTSEND.
NOW SEE WHAT MITE HAVE BEEN.
COMING IN JANUARY!
ONE-SHOT PRESTIGE FORMAT ALAN GRANT KEVIN O'NEILL

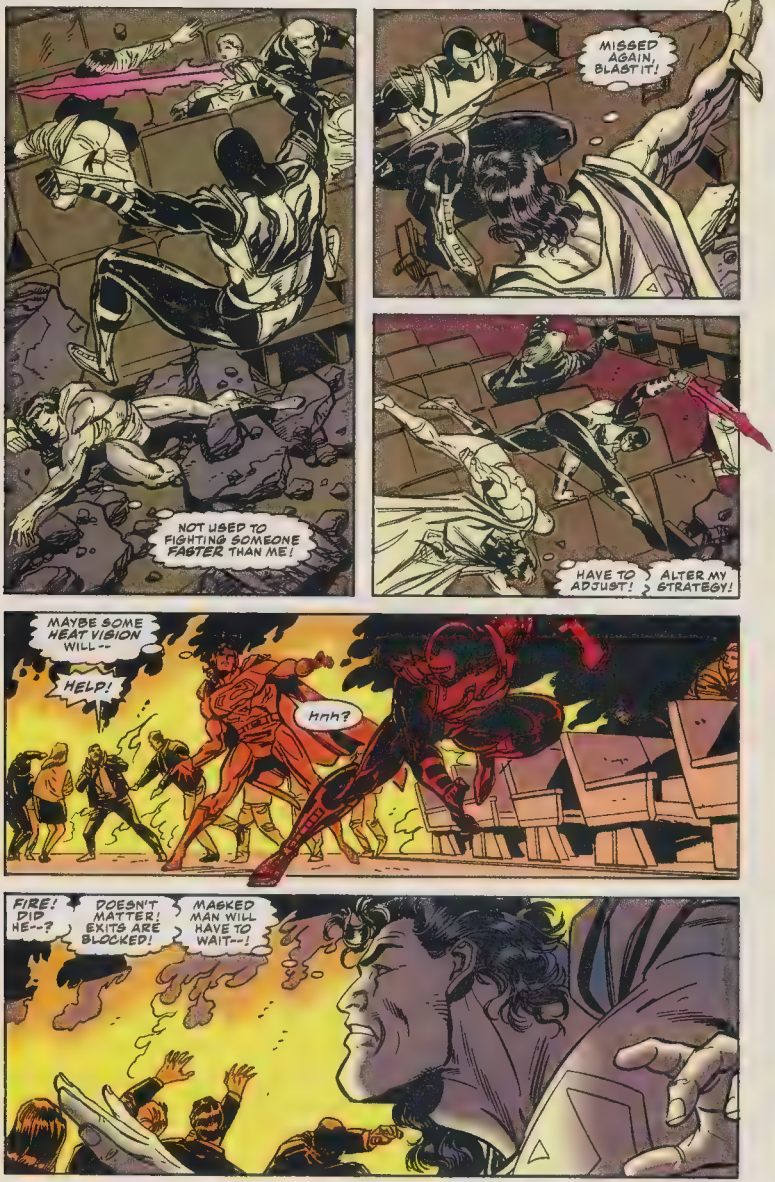
LOOK! TH-THE CEILING'S FALLING DOWN!

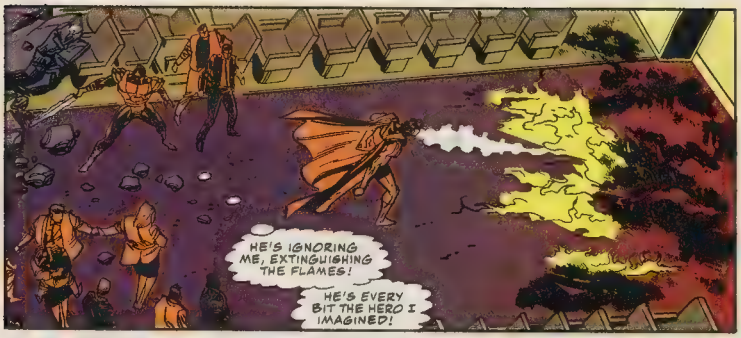

MADRE DE--


--DIOS!
TSSCS


DEBRIS'S PRETTY SMALL! NOT TOO DANGEROUS!
BUT I'D BETTER MAKE SURE NO ONE GETS HIT--


--;sgh!; HE WAS WAITING, CLINGING TO THE CEILING! AND WHATEVER THAT SWORD'S MADE OF--
--IT HURTS!


NOT USED TO FIGHTING SOMEONE FASTER THAN ME!
MISSED AGAIN, BLAST IT!
HAVE TO ADJUST!
ALTER MY STRATEGY!
MAYBE SOME HEAT VISION WILL--
HELP!
Hmh?
FIRE! DID HE--?
DOESN'T MATTER! EXITS ARE BLOCKED!
MASKED MAN WILL HAVE TO WAIT--!

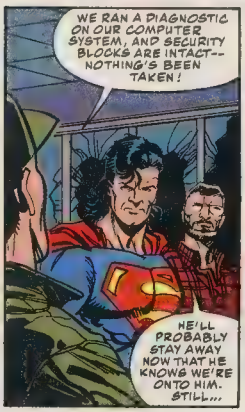

HE'S IGNORING ME, EXTINGUISHING THE FLAMES!
HE'S EVERY BIT THE HERO I IMAGINED!

I'M PROUD TO HAVE FACED HIM, BUT WILL HAVE TO TAKE STEPS--

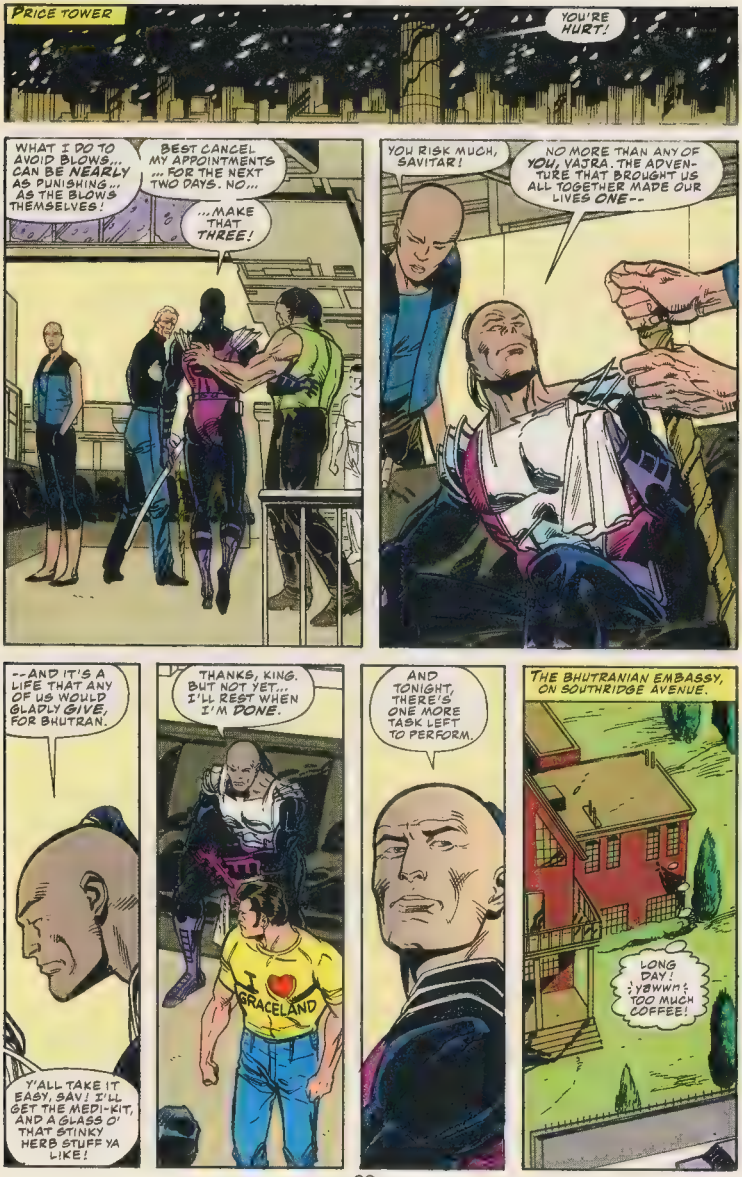
--TO MAKE SURE I NEVER DO SO AGAIN!

NO ONE'S SERIOUSLY INJURED, BUT THE BURGLAR'S GONE!
ONLY ONE PLACE TO LOOK!

SCIENCE CONCEPTS.
SORRY, SUPERMAN, HE ISN'T HERE! BUT WE DO HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS!


WE RAN A DIAGNOSTIC ON OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM, AND SECURITY BLOCKS ARE INTACT--NOTHING'S BEEN TAKEN!
HE'LL PROBABLY STAY AWAY NOW THAT HE KNOWS WE'RE ONTO HIM. STILL...

...I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THIS PLACE. AS SOMEONE WISE SAID--
--IT ISN'T GOOD TO UNDERESTIMATE YOUR OPPONENT!


PRICE TOWER
YOU'RE HURT!
WHAT I DO TO AVOID BLOWS... CAN BE NEARLY AS PUNISHING... AS THE BLOWS THEMSELVES!
BEST CANCEL MY APPOINTMENTS ... FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS. NO...
...MAKE THAT THREE!
YOU RISK MUCH, SAVITAR!
NO MORE THAN ANY OF YOU, VAJRA. THE ADVENTURE THAT BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER MADE OUR LIVES ONE--
--AND IT'S A LIFE THAT ANY OF US WOULD GLADLY GIVE, FOR BHUTRAN.
Y'ALL TAKE IT EASY, SAV! I'LL GET THE MEDI-KIT, AND A GLASS O' THAT STINKY HERB STUFF YA LIKE!
THANKS, KING. BUT NOT YET... I'LL REST WHEN I'M DONE.
I ♥ GRACELAND
AND TONIGHT, THERE'S ONE MORE TASK LEFT TO PERFORM.
THE BHUTRANIAN EMBASSY, ON SOUTHRIDGE AVENUE.
LONG DAY! ;YAWWN; TOO MUCH COFFEE!

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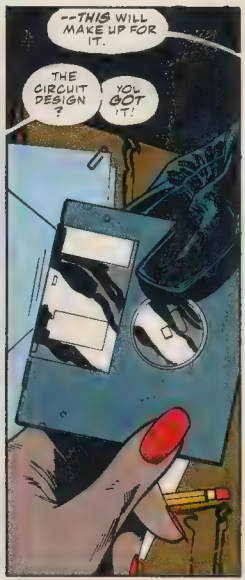
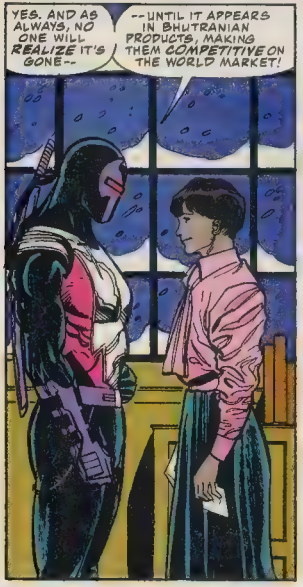
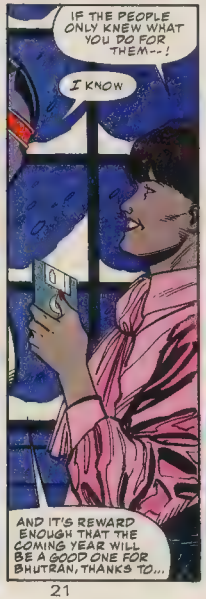
SHOWCASE 95
METROPOLIS
LOBO
BOOM!
BOOM!

BETTER HEAD HOME, BEFORE I START SEEING THI--

¡93SD!?
MY APOLOGIES, SINDAL. IT WAS RUDE TO STARTLE YOU. PERHAPS--


--THIS WILL MAKE UP FOR IT.
THE CIRCUIT DESIGN?
YOU GOT IT!


YES. AND AS ALWAYS, NO ONE WILL REALIZE IT'S GONE--
--UNTIL IT APPEARS IN BHUTRANIAN PRODUCTS, MAKING THEM COMPETITIVE ON THE WORLD MARKET!


IF THE PEOPLE ONLY KNEW WHAT YOU DO FOR THEM--!
I KNOW
AND IT'S REWARD ENOUGH THAT THE COMING YEAR WILL BE A GOOD ONE FOR BHUTRAN, THANKS TO...

...THE SHADOWDRAGON!

...THREE... TWO... ONE... HAP-PEE NEEEW YEARRR!
Y'KNOW, THIS COULD BE OUR LAST YEAR AS SINGLES.
IT COULD.
SO HERE'S TO 365 DAYS OF HAPPINESS.
TOGETHER.
MMMM, A YEAR OF PEACE, TRANQUILITY...
...AND NO COSTUMED BONEHEADS TRYING TO JUSTIFY THEIR TESTOSTERONE BY BEATING YOU TO A PULP!
LIVE:12:00
LIVE:12:01
;sigh;
I CAN DREAM, CAN'T I...?
HAPPY NEW YEAR
end

RE:ACTION

DC COMICS
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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Dear Mr. Carlin and Mr. Duffy:

With a writer as good as David Michelinie and a super-hero as important as Superman, I had to write in after David's first three issues on ACTION. I remember writing about two years ago requesting that Mr. Michelinie do a special or something, but I never did think it would be so good to have Mr. Michelinie as a regular writer on a SUPERMAN title. If Clark is to marry Lois, it would only be fitting that Mr. Michelinie write it, because he did marry Peter to Mary Jane. I also look forward to seeing Mr. Michelinie create new villains for the Man of Steel like he created Venom and Carnage. Finally I must mention that Jackson Guice's pencils and Denis Rodier's inks fit in very well with Mr. Michelinie's writing.

As for the story, when it started I thought to myself life would be easier for Clark if he told Kenny about his powers. However, it was not clear to me if Kenny and Clark were competing before or after Clark started getting his powers. Also, now Conduit wants to get even with Superman. So it seems just as Kenny competed with Clark, now Conduit is competing with Superman.

I hope that David Michelinie stays with ACTION COMICS and Superman until Darkseid meets Galactus (or better yet, even longer).

Steven Craig Horn
Oklahoma City, OK

Did you read this issue you're holding, Steven? Michelinie's contribution to villains of the Super-mythos has already begun! (But is ShadowDragon a villain?) And as for that "until Darkseid" bit, well, we hope you stay longer! (Oh, and who are Peter and Mary Jane? Friends of this so-called Galactus, we presume.)

*****

Dear Super People:

Re: ACTION #0

For some reason I find it hard to believe that it took Superman so long to figure out that Conduit was really Kenny Braverman. Even a being with limited intelligence should have known Conduit's true identity. I guess that Superman refused to accept the fact that his childhood friend had become a ruthless villain, even though all the evidence was right in front of his face.

I guess the big debate is whether to feel sorry for Kenny. As Superman himself said, he felt like apologizing to him. I, for one, do feel sorry for Kenny. I couldn't help seeing the similarities between Conduit and the Toyman. Both were, in a sense, victims of their environments and became what they were not because of who they were, but because of what they had gone through.

ACTION COMICS #0

Kenny had gone his entire life feeling like a loser not because he was one, but because his father told him he was. As in Kenny's case, psychological abuse can often be more damaging than physical abuse. His need to feel important was what apparently led him to the C.I.A. By making him a super agent, the C.I.A. diminished any feelings of inadequacy that Kenny felt, but because of Kenny's abusive childhood and his mental state, a monster was created in the process. (Actually, you would think that the C.I.A. would have a rigorous test to check for mental stability.)

Wherever the blame lies does not really matter. What does matter is that Kenny's fate is a sad and tragic one which could have been avoided. When Superman felt like apologizing to Kenny, maybe it wasn't for the beating he gave Kenny. Maybe it was because, as youngsters, he never gave Kenny the encouragement he needed. He never made an attempt to make Kenny feel as though he belonged. And he never told Kenny that he wasn't a loser, despite what his father said. A loser is not someone who doesn't win. A loser is someone who refuses to accept a person for what he is as a human being. And as any winner knows, human beings aren't perfect.

Thomas V. Accardo
Brooklyn, NY

Well put, as usual, Tom. Could that "V" be for "Very Prolific"? (Don't tell us—we want the mystery to remain intact.)

*****

Re: ACTION COMICS #0

Pluses: Clark checking up on his folks—great touch. Ruby—I always like seeing her (another vote for a remake of SUPERMAN: THE SECRET YEARS. Much more appropriate now that there actually were some secret years). Seeing the body in Superman's tomb—now, this has got to be leading up to something big!

Minuses: No exploration of Conduit's Kryptonite powers. Conduit puts together an organization rivaling the C.I.A. in just a few years? Ruby would be engaged to a man without ever having seen him with his shirt off? Finally, what will it take until Kenny figures out that every time he attacks Clark, less than a minute later Superman is on the scene! Even the simplest of minds would make the connection.

All in all, it was a nice conclusion to a "jumping on" story. As a long-time reader, I would have liked either more action or more background story. The mix presented just seemed to leave me hungry for both.

Norman Barth
Fresh Meadows, NY

Still hungry, Norman? Let us know. As for "secret years," well, how do you feel about "year ones" instead? Each DC annual in 1995 will focus on untold stories of our characters' first year! Some guest stars to look forward to in the SUPERMAN ANNUALS: Martian

Manhunter, Aquaman, Dr. Occult, and Maggie Sawyer!

*****

Mike, Frank, and Chris:

So who needs ACTION COMICS #1 when you can have ACTION COMICS #0!

Yeah, I know the former might "guide" higher, but which one has *more pages of Superman*? Case closed!

Joe Torcivia
Westbury, NY

Good point! Take note, all you collectors! More Man of Steel for your money in today's ACTION COMICS! (We like your attitude, guy. Have a Baldy! Short letters get 'em, too!)

*****

Okay, we've all been through the DEAD AGAIN saga, and we all know Brainiac was the bad guy who was responsible for the Superman corpse in the previously empty tomb, right? Let's look back and chortle at ourselves (well, okay, yourselves) and our first guesses at who was behind it all! Ah, were we ever so young and naive? (We apologize in advance for editing your letters down for space in this round one of the Supercorpse guessing game.)

Dear DC:

I was wondering how Conduit came about arming himself with Kryptonite blasters and I have to ask: Did Conduit's sordid past with the fascist C.I.A. intertwine somehow with LexCorp? I'm really excited wondering who's in Superman's tomb. I think maybe it's an alternative reality body—say, for example, Bizarro?

George H. Lyda, Jr.
Gray Court, SC

Conduit seems to produce Krypto-nite radiation right from his body, George. It's a frightening prospect, for certain, but that seems to be part of his strange metahuman powers. As for Bizarro—wrong! It was Brainiac. (Oh, yeah, you know that now.)

*****

Dear Action Comics:

Dare I say it's not Superman's but Bizarro's body we are gazing upon ...the body in the tomb has the basic appearance of Bizarro: pale, pale, pale. Next, the end of the "Bizarro's World" series does not account for the disposal of his body...It is possible that Cadmus or even LexCorp took Bizarro's body following his death—in order to conduct more tests. Following the tests it is possible that Cadmus or LexCorp wished to dispose of the body in such a manner that it could cause problems for Superman. The tomb is a likely place. Well, what do you think?

Michael S. Lenetsky
Philadelphia, PA

What do we think? We think you were wrong! It was Brainiac! (Nice reasoning though, Michael.)

*****

Dear Superdudes:

OK. Back when Cadmus stole Superman's body, in "Funeral for a Friend," what if they were somewhat successful at cloning him, but for some reason the clone had no vital signs or perhaps they knew sometime he might awaken; or even better, they were unsuccessful because they couldn't put the life into the body?

Keith Kesterson
Morristown, TN

That's quite a "what if"! What if you're wrong and it was Brainiac? (Actually, your letter, only excerpted here, was quite convincing. Why didn't we think of Cadmus?)

*****

Dear ACTION:

A few theories:

1) The body taken from Cadmus and put back in the coffin was the first of two Kryptonian clones to be matured.

2) The one found dead in the coffin is the sand clone from the SUPERMAN special, and the living one is real, or vice versa.

3) The dead one is the indication that Zero Hour is not over.

4) The dead one is the only remaining spillover from the alternative timelines of Zero Hour.

5) The dead one is a byproduct of the Eradicator's creation.

6) It was another gimmick to get more readers (well, you got me).

Matthew Blanchard
Norfolk, VA

#1-5: Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! And WRONG! It was Brainiac. #6: hee-hee-hee-hee!

*****

Dear Chris:

...As for the body in Superman's tomb, I have a prediction as to whose fault it is—Lord Satanus. Now that Luthor has been eliminated, it's time you did something with him, as hinted in ACTION #700. He'd love to do something like that to mess with Superman's mind. So, am I right?

James Evans
St. Paul, MN

Nope, it was Brainiac. But keep thinking "Satanus," James! You won't have long to wait!

Dear Super Troopers:

As for the dead body on the last page of ACTION #0...I'm not even going to try to figure out this one yet!

Fritz Baugh
Indianapolis, IN

Wrong! It was—Hey! You sure know how to spoil an editor's fun!

—Chris Duffy
Where Would We Be
Without Gloating?

IN ONE WEEK: In MAN OF STEEL #42, Lock and Babe fight together to banish a vampire and save our world from a big swirling portal to another dimension! Can Superman keep Metropolis in one piece (more or less) while these strange allies struggle? Louise Simonson, guest penciller Michal Dutkiewicz, and inker Dennis Janke serve it up spooky in seven days!

IN TWO WEEKS: In SUPERMAN #98, the strange series of events that twisted the Toyman to his current state are revealed at last! If you want to know what it took to turn Winslow Schott from a bad guy into a BAD guy, then bear witness to his bizarre story, along with the Man of Steel, Dan Jurgens, Joe Rubinstein and Cat Grant, in fourteen days!

IN THREE WEEKS: In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #521, the Thorn takes to the streets of Metropolis once more! But what exactly has awakened this furious sentinel? Superman and the Riot Grrrls find out in twenty-one days as Karl Kesel, Stuart Immonen and José Marzan Jr. herald the return of one of Metropolis's most unusual heroes!

In FOUR WEEKS: Mister Miracle of the New Gods is drawn to Earth to fight along Superman against... Okay, smart guys, who'd be a particularly good foe for Mister Miracle? Let's just say Superman needs all the help he can get in twenty-eight days, in an action-packed ACTION COMICS #708 by David Michelinie, Jackson Guice, and Denis Rodier!

"Comin' right atchya!" Some lucky moviegoers get 3-D without the funny glasses on this week's Superman cover—by Jackson Guice and Brett Breeding (colored by Suzanne Bourdages and separated by Android Images)!

HAVE A COMPUTER? GOT A MODEM? FREE DC COMICS ONLINE STARTER KIT—1-800-203-2600

WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING AT?

ME OR THIS BIG FAT ZIT? THIS BULLSEYE IN THE MIDDLE OF MY FOREHEAD? ISN'T THERE SOMETHING THAT CAN BLAST IT OUT OF MY LIFE? THAT DIGS DOWN AND DEEP CLEANS WITH MORE KILLER STUFF THAN THE NUMBER ONE PAD TO ZAP ZITS? IN FACT, ISN'T THAT SOMETHING THIS WICKED LITTLE PAD FROM CLEARASIL®?

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NERF®

WELCOME TO MAX FORCE™

IT STARTS WITH A FLURRY
15 DARTS OFF IN A HURRY

Zippp!

Gotcha!

MUSCLED BY THE CRANK OF **RAZORBEAST.™**

thwack!

EAGLE EYE™ CHECKS HIS SIGHT

You're mine now!

BEFORE HIS DART **SPLITS** THE NIGHT.

AND THE GAMES HAVE ONLY **BEGUN...**

NERF MAX FORCE

EACH SOLD SEPARATELY

NERF TO THE NEXT POWER

THE EXCITEMENT IS HERE

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